

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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P R 051515Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1916

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9354

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, GE UR

SUBJECT: GERMAN AMBASSADOR REPORTS SOVIET REMARKS ON ME

REF: MOSCOW 8864

1. SUMMARY- GROMYKO TOLD GERMAN AMBASSADOR SAHM LAST WEEK THAT SEPARATE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD "UNDERMINE THE SITUATION" AND WOULD BE "DETRIMENTAL" TO PROGRESS TOWARD AND OVERALL SETTLEMENT. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION MFA ME OFFICIAL PYRLIN TOOK A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO PARTIAL MEASURES. PYRLIN SAID FURTHER THAT EGYPT HAS NOT YET REPLIED TO SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR THE
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RESCHEDULING OF CAIRO'S DEBT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE JULY 3 QUADRIPARTITE MEETING, THE GERMANS REPORTED THAT GROMYKO TOLD AMBASSADOR SAHM LAST WEEK THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT PROPOSING A SET DATE FOR RECONVENING THE MEPC. GROMYKO SAID FURTHER THAT ANY SEPARATE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENTS NOT CONCLUDED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD "UNDERMINE THE SITUATION" AND WOULD BE "DETRIMENTAL" TO PROGRESS TOWARD AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. SAHM ALSO MET WITH PYRLIN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE MFA'S NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DIVISION, WHO TOLD THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR THE SOVIETS "IN PRINCIPLE" ARE NOT OPPOSED TO PARTIAL AGREEMENTS, BUT ANY AGREEMENT MUST BE "DISCUSSED" BY ALL PARTIES AND MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF A GENERAL ME SETTLEMENT. COMMENT: PYRLIN'S REMARKS ECHOED WHAT HE TOLD US ON JUNE 24 (REFTEL), AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH GROMYKO'S; GROMYKO, HOWEVER, PUT A MORE NEGATIVE CAST ON PARTIAL MEASURES. END COMMENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SAHM'S INQUIRY RE MOSCOW'S CURRENT RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, PYRLIN REPLIED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE 1926 AND HAVE NEVER BEEN SEVERED, BUT THAT EMBASSIES HAVE NOT BEEN MAINTAINED SINCE 1939. PYRLIN, HOWEVER, ADDED THAT LIMITED SOVIET CONTACTS WITH THE SAUDIS ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY AMBASSADOR MALIK AT THE UN.

4. TURNING TO EGYPT, PYRLIN TOLD SAHM THAT SADAT'S CRITICISMS OF THE USSR ARE UNFOUNDED. THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE (UNSPECIFIED) "PROPOSALS" FOR THE RESCHEDULING OF CAIRO'S DEBT, BUT MOSCOW HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY AS YET. PYRLIN SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO EGYPTIAN DEMARCHE TO REVISE THE BILATERAL TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE FORESAW NO GROMYKO VISIT TO CAIRO "IN THE NEAR FUTURE".

5. PYRLIN LABELLED RECENT STORIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST PRESS REPORTING AN UPCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW BY KING HUSSEIN AS "TRAIL BALLOONS FLOATED BY JORDANIANS". PYRLIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HUSSEIN "WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO COME TO MOSCOW", BUT HE INSISTED NOTHING CONCRETE HAS BEEN SET UP.

6. RE THE PROJECTED PLO OFFICE IN MOSCOW, PYRLIN REMARKED THAT IT WILL OPEN AS SOON AS THE PLO NAMES A REPRESENTATIVE. HE CONTENDED THAT THE CHOICE OF OFFICE BUILDING AND ALL OTHER ADMIN-
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ISTRATIVE MATTERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SETTLED.

7. PYRLIN ALSO TOLD SAHM THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN TRYING TO MEDIATE THE SYRIA-IRAQ WATER DISPUTE, BUT DID NOT INDICATE WHAT DEGREE OF SUCCESS, IF ANY, THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD IN THIS REGARD.
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